

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

HYELYN JOHNSON and CHAE E. GHIM, on
behalf of themselves and a class and collective of
similarly situated individuals,

Plaintiffs,

– against –

QUEEN'S NAIL ART, INC d/b/a DASHING DIVA
nail salon, and SEUNG AE CHOI, in their individual
and professional capacities,

Defendants

Civil Action No. 23-cv-789

COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiffs Hyelyn Johnson, and Chae E. Ghim, (together, “Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated individuals, by and through their undersigned counsel Ryan Kim Law, P.C., as and for their Complaint in this action against Defendants QUEEN’S NAIL ART, INC d/b/a DASHING DIVA nail salon (“DASHING DIVA” or the “Nail Salon”), and SEUNG AE CHOI (the “Individual Defendants”) (the Nail Salon and the Individual Defendants are collectively referred to herein as “Defendants”), hereby allege as follows:

NATURE OF THE CLAIMS

1. Defendants subjected Plaintiffs, who worked as a cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician, eyelash extension technician, and other similarly- situated employees at DASHING DIVA to numerous violations of federal and state laws during their employment, including: (a) failure to pay minimum wages in violation of the Fair

Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.* and the New York Labor Law (“NYLL”), § 650 *et seq.*; (b) failure to pay overtime wages in violation of the FLSA § 207 and NYLL § 650 *et seq.*; (c) illegal retention of employee gratuities in violation of FLSA § 203(m)(2)(B) and NYLL § 196-d; (d) failure to pay for all hours worked in violation of NYLL § 191; (e) failure to provide accurate wage notices in violation of NYLL §§ 195(1) and (2); and (f) failure to provide wage statements in violation of NYLL § 195(3).

2. Plaintiffs’ claims under the FLSA are brought as a collective action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons who were employed by Defendants as “cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician and/or eyelash extension technician” during the applicable limitations period (the “FLSA Collective Period”). Plaintiffs and all such other similarly situated persons are jointly referred to herein as the “FLSA Collective.”

3. Plaintiffs’ claims under the NYLL are brought as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 23 on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons who were employed by Defendants as “cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician, and/or eyelash extension technician” during the applicable limitations period (the “NYLL Class Period”). Plaintiffs and all other similarly situated persons are jointly referred to herein as the “NYLL Class.”

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as this action involves federal questions regarding the deprivation of Plaintiffs’, the FLSA Collective’s, and the NYLL Class’s rights under the FLSA. The Court has supplemental

jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' related claims arising under State law pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this action, including the unlawful employment practices alleged herein, occurred in this district, namely Manhattan, New York.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Hyelyn Johnson is an adult resident of the state of New York and was employed by Defendants as a cosmetologist at DASHING DIVA from November 2014 to April 2022. At all relevant times, Ms. Johnson was an "employee" within the meaning of all applicable statutes. A Consent to Participate as a Plaintiff in this action executed by Ms. Johnson will be filed with the Court.

7. Plaintiff Chae E. Ghim is an adult resident of the state of New York and was employed by Defendants as a cosmetologist at DASHING DIVA from January 2013 to the current. At all relevant times, Ms. Ghim was an "employee" within the meaning of all applicable statutes. A Consent to Participate as a Plaintiff in this action executed by Ms. Ghim will be filed with the Court.

8. Defendant Queen's Nail Art, Inc. is a New York domestic business corporation doing business as Dashing Diva with a service of process address of 105 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023. DASHING DIVA is a nail salon located at 105 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023. At all relevant times, Queen's Nail Art, Inc. was an "employer" within the meaning of all applicable statutes, and an enterprise engaged in

commerce as defined by § 203(r) and (s) of the FLSA, with annual gross volume business done in an amount not less than \$500,000.

9. Defendant SEUNG AE CHOI is the sole owner of DASHING DIVA and, upon information and belief, an adult resident of the state of New York. Ms. Choi exercises sufficient control of DASHING DIVA's day-to-day operations, including, but not limited to, how employees are paid, to be considered an "employer" within the meaning of all applicable statutes.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS
Minimum Wage Violations

10. Defendants were/are not permitted, under the NYLL, to pay certain tipped employees at a statutory hourly rate that is less than the standard hourly minimum wage rate so long as the "tips" or "gratuities" that such tipped employee is expected to receive, when added to the hourly wages, meet or exceed the standard hourly minimum wage, and so long as all tips received by the employees are retained by the employee, and no portion of the tips are retained by Defendants or given to employees in non-tipped positions.

11. Also, Defendants were not entitled to avail themselves of the reduced minimum wage by applying the tip credit allowance for Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class, because Defendants would retain tips and would pay a portion of the tips earned by Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective and the NYLL Class to managerial staff.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendants deducted 10% of the credit card tips earned by Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class as credit card processing costs.

13. As such, Defendants were obligated to pay Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class the standard hourly minimum wage rate, and not any reduced minimum wage through the application of a tip credit.

14. Remarkably, Defendant Choi has admitted to her employees, including Ms. Johnson and Ms. Ghim, that she wrongfully deducted 10% from her employees' credit card tip and returned the portion when they complained about it. But she had never returned it unless they complained about it.

15. As a result of the above unlawful practices, Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and NYLL Class were not paid minimum wages, in violation of the FLSA and NYLL.

FLSA § 203(m)(2)(B) and New York Labor Law § 196-d Violations

23. As alleged above, during Plaintiffs' employment and at all relevant times during the FLSA Collective Period and NYLL Class Period, Defendants unlawfully retained tips that were earned by and owed to Plaintiffs and other members of the NYLL Class and paid them to owners and managers at the Nail Salon, in violation of FLSA § 203(m)(2)(B) and NYLL § 196-d.

24. As such, Defendants are required to disgorge and pay back all the gratuities they unlawfully retained to Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class, along with liquidated damages and interest.

"Off-the-Clock" Work

16. During Plaintiffs' employment and the FLSA Collective Period and NYLL Class Period, Defendants required or caused Plaintiffs and members of the FLSA Collective and NYLL Class to perform "off the clock" through their practice of docking employees 30 minutes to an hour or more of pay.

17. The owner punched out employees' time cards before they finished their work and she took customers after the close time. Plaintiffs should work for at least extra 30 minutes to an hour after the hours. If anyone complained about it, Ms. Choi told them she had them earn more tips from the after hour service.

26. As a result of this and other "off-the-clock" work, Defendants unlawfully failed to pay Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class minimum wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, overtime wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, and straight time wages for all hours worked in violation of NYLL § 191(1)(a)(i).

Mandatory Lunch Deduction

18. During the Plaintiffs' employment and the FLSA Collective Period and NYLL Class Period, Defendants automatically deducted 30 minutes of lunch break from employees' working hours even though they could not take a lunch break.

19. Defendants automatically deducted 30 minutes of lunchtime even when the Plaintiffs' working shift was 3 hours and they had no lunch for the day.

20. Dashing Diva has no break room. There is a supply room that has no seating with a washer, a dryer, and boxes and it only fits three people standing. Plaintiffs ate lunch or drink water in the supply room and came back to work right away during the gap between service appointments. Plaintiffs were never provided their lunchtime or break time.

21. Defendant did not allow the Plaintiffs to go outside so the Plaintiffs could not go out for lunch or to buy lunch outside. Defendants directed Plaintiffs to bring their lunch and eat inside.

22. Once Ms. Johnson went outside for fresh air during working hours, Ms. Choi followed her, pointed at Ms. Johnson's face with her finger, and yelled at her "never do that" on the street in front of many people.

23. As a result of this automatic deduction of lunchtime, Defendants unlawfully failed to pay Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class minimum wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, overtime wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, and straight time wages for all hours worked in violation of NYLL § 191(1)(a)(i).

Wage Notice and Wage Statement Violations

24. Defendants also failed to provide Plaintiffs and members of the NYLL Class wage notices and/or accurate wage notices as required by NYLL §§ 195(1) and (2) at the time of their hiring or when any changes to the information required in the wage notices took place.

25. Accordingly, by failing to comply with their wage notice requirements, Defendants owe Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class \$50 per day for every day such notice was not provided, up to \$5,000 per employee.

26. In addition, Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiffs and members of the NYLL Class with wage statements and/or accurate wage statements, *i.e.*, pay stubs, that included, *inter alia*, their hours worked, any minimum wage allowances that were applied, and the correct amount of tip wages they should have and were legally owed.

27. By failing to comply with their wage statements obligations, Defendants owe Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class \$250 for each violation, up to \$5,000 per employee.

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

28. Plaintiffs bring their FLSA claims as a collective action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons who were employed by Defendants as “cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician, eyelash extension technician position during the FLSA Collective Period.”

29. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs and the other members of the FLSA Collective were similarly situated, had substantially similar job requirements, were paid in the same manner and under the same common policies, plans, and practices, and were subject to Defendants’ failure to pay them at the legally required minimum wage for all hours worked, all of the tips they were owed, and overtime wages for hours worked over 40 in a week.

30. During the FLSA Collective Period, Defendants were fully aware of the duties performed by Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective, and that those duties were not exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the FLSA.

31. As a result of Defendants’ conduct as alleged herein, Defendants violated 29 U.S.C. § 206 by not paying Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked, 29 U.S.C. § 203(m)(2)(B) by keeping tips received by its employees, including allowed managers and supervisors to keep a portion of employees’ tips, and violated 29 U.S.C. § 207 by not paying Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective overtime wages for hours worked over 40 in a week.

32. As a result of Defendants’ conduct, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective for the full amount of their unpaid minimum and overtime wages and tips unlawfully kept, plus an additional equal amount in liquidated damages, interest, plus the attorneys’ fees and costs incurred by Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective.

33. While the exact number of the FLSA Collective is unknown to Plaintiffs at present, upon information and belief, there are more than 40 other similarly situated persons who were employed by Defendants as “cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician, eyelash extension technician during the FLSA Collective Period.”

RULE 23 CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

34. Plaintiffs bring their NYLL claims as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of themselves and behalf of all other similarly situated persons who were employed by Defendants as “cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician, eyelash extension technician during the NYLL Class Period.”

35. Plaintiffs allege that they and other NYLL Class Members were/are: (i) not paid the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked; (ii) not paid overtime wages for all hours worked over 40 hours in a week; (iii) unlawfully denied gratuities; (iv) not paid wages for all hours worked; (v) not provided with appropriate wage notices; and (vi) not furnished with appropriate wage statements.

36. The basic job duties of the NYLL Class were the same as or substantially similar to those of Plaintiffs, and the NYLL Class were paid in the same manner and under the same common policies, plans, and practices as Plaintiffs.

37. Defendants subjected both the NYLL Class and Plaintiffs, to the same unlawful policies, plans, and practices, including not paying the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked or overtime wages for hours worked over 40 in a week, retaining gratuities, not paying for all hours worked, and not furnishing appropriate wage notices and wage statements.

38. During the NYLL Class Period, Defendants were fully aware of the duties performed by Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class, and that those duties were not exempt from the applicable provisions of the NYLL and/or its regulations.

39. As a result of Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Defendants violated the NYLL and/or its regulations by not paying the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked or overtime wages for hours worked over 40 in a week, retaining gratuities, not paying for all hours worked, and not furnishing appropriate wage notices and wage statements.

40. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class for the full amount of their unpaid minimum wage, unpaid overtime wages, the amount of gratuities retained by Defendants, wages for all hours worked, penalties for failing to issue appropriate wage notices up to \$5,000 per person, and penalties for failing to furnish appropriate wage notices of up to \$5,000 per person, plus additional amounts (where applicable) in liquidated damages, interest, plus the attorneys' fees and costs incurred by Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class.

41. Certification of the NYLL Class's claims as a class action is the most efficient and economical means of resolving the questions of law and facts common to Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of the NYLL Class. Plaintiffs have standing to seek such relief because of the adverse effects that Defendants' unlawful compensation policies and practices have had on them individually and on members of the NYLL Class. Without class certification, the same evidence and issues would be subject to re-litigation in a multitude of individual lawsuits with an attendant risk of inconsistent adjudications and conflicting obligations. Certification of the NYLL Class is the most efficient and judicious

means of presenting the evidence and arguments necessary to resolve such questions for Plaintiffs, the NYLL Class, and Defendants.

42. Plaintiffs' claims raise questions of law and facts common to the NYLL Class.

Among these questions are:

- Whether Defendants employed Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members within the meaning of the NYLL;
- Whether Defendants paid Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members the federal and state minimum wage for all hours worked during the NYLL Class Period;
- Whether Defendants paid Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members overtime wages for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek;
- Whether Defendants' failure to pay the prevailing minimum wage or overtime wages constitutes violations of the FLSA or NYLL;
- At what common rate, or rates subject to common methods of calculation, were Defendants required to pay Plaintiffs and the Class Members for their work;
- Whether Defendants illegally retained Plaintiffs' and the NYLL Class Members' tips;
- Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class wages for all hours worked;
- Whether Defendants failed to issue Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class appropriate wage notices in violation of the NYLL;
- Whether Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class with appropriate wage statements in violation of the NYLL; and
- Whether Defendants' violations of the FLSA and NYLL and/or their regulations were willful.

43. These common questions of law and fact arise from the same course of events, and each class member will make similar legal and factual arguments to prove liability.

44. Plaintiffs are members of the NYLL Class that they seek to represent. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the NYLL Class. The relief Plaintiffs seek for the unlawful policies and practices complained of herein are also typical of the relief which is sought on behalf of the NYLL Class.

45. Plaintiffs' interests are co-extensive with those of the NYLL Class that they seek to represent in this case. Plaintiffs are willing and able to represent the NYLL Class fairly and to vigorously pursue their similar individual claims in this action. Plaintiffs have retained counsel who are qualified and experienced in labor and employment class action litigation, and who are able to meet the time and fiscal demands necessary to litigate a class action of this size and complexity. The combined interests, experience, and resources of Plaintiffs and their counsel to litigate the individual and NYLL Class claims at issue, in this case, satisfy the adequacy of the representation requirement of the Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4).

46. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the NYLL Class, making final injunctive and declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the NYLL Class.

47. Injunctive and declaratory relief is the predominant relief sought in this case because they are the culmination of the proof of Defendants' individual and class-wide liability and the essential predicate for Plaintiffs' and the NYLL Class's entitlement to monetary and non-monetary remedies to be determined at a later stage of the proceedings.

48. The common issues of law and facts affecting Plaintiffs' claims and those of the NYLL Class Members, including the common issues identified above, predominate over any issues affecting only individual claims.

49. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of the NYLL Class. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

50. The cost of proving Defendants' violations of the NYLL and the supporting regulations makes it impracticable for Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class to pursue their claims individually. Maintenance of a class action promotes judicial economy by consolidating a large class of plaintiffs litigating identical claims. The claims of the NYLL Class interrelate such that the interests of the members will be fairly and adequately protected in their absence. Additionally, the questions of law and fact common to the NYLL Class arise from the same course of events and each class member makes similar legal and factual arguments to prove Defendants' liability.

51. The NYLL Class is so numerous that the joinder of all members is impracticable. While the exact number of the NYLL Class is unknown to Plaintiffs at the present time, upon information and belief, there are more than 40 similarly situated persons who were/are employed by Defendants as "cosmetologist, nail technician, skin care technician, eyelash extension technician during the NYLL Class Period."

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Pay Minimum Wages in Violation of the FLSA)

52. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the FLSA Collective, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their minimum wage violation claims as if they were set forth again herein.

53. The FLSA requires covered employers, such as Defendants, to pay all non-exempt employees the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked. Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective were not exempt from the requirement that Defendants pay them the prevailing minimum wage under the FLSA.

54. During the FLSA Collective Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked for Defendants.

55. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked, Defendants violated the FLSA.

56. The foregoing conduct of Defendants constitutes willful violations of the FLSA.

57. Defendants' violations of the FLSA have significantly damaged Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective and entitle them to recover the total amount of their unpaid minimum wages, an additional equal amount in liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in Violation of the FLSA)

58. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the FLSA Collective, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their overtime wage violation claims as if they were set forth again herein.

59. The FLSA requires covered employers, such as Defendants, to pay all non-exempt employees overtime wages of one and one-half times their regular hourly wages for hours worked over 40 in a week. Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective were not exempt from the requirement that Defendants pay them overtime wages under the FLSA.

60. During the FLSA Collective Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective overtime wages for all hours worked over 40 in a week for Defendants.

61. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective overtime wages for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek, Defendants violated the FLSA.

62. The foregoing conduct of Defendants constitutes willful violations of the FLSA.

63. Defendants' violations of the FLSA have significantly damaged Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective and entitle them to recover the total amount of their unpaid overtime wages, an additional equal amount in liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Illegal Retention of Gratuities Under the FLSA)

64. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the FLSA Collective, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their claim for illegal retention of gratuities as if they were set forth again herein.

65. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 203(m)(2)(B), the FLSA prohibits an employer from keeping tips received by its employees for any purposes, including allowing managers or supervisors to keep any portion of employees' tips, regardless of whether or not the employer takes a tip credit.

66. During the FLSA Collective Period, Defendants unlawfully retained gratuities from Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class, in violation of the FLSA.

67. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective members are entitled to recover from Defendants the amount of unlawfully retained gratuities, liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Pay Minimum Wage in Violation of the NYLL)

68. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the NYLL Class, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their minimum wage claims as if they were set forth again herein.

69. The NYLL requires covered employers, such as Defendants, to pay all non-exempt employees the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked. Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class were not exempt from the requirement that Defendants pay them the prevailing minimum wage under the NYLL.

70. During the NYLL Class Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class the prevailing minimum wage for all hours worked for Defendants.

71. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class the prevailing minimum wage for all hours, Defendants violated the NYLL.

72. The foregoing conduct of Defendants constitutes willful violations of the NYLL.

73. Defendants' violations of the NYLL have significantly damaged Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class and entitle them to recover the total amount of their unpaid minimum wages, an additional amount in liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Pay Overtime Wages in Violation of the NYLL)

74. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the NYLL Class, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their overtime wage violation claims as if they were set forth again herein.

75. The NYLL requires covered employers, such as Defendants, to pay all non-exempt employees overtime wages of one and one-half times their regular hourly wages for hours worked over 40 in a week. Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class were not exempt from the requirement that Defendants pay them overtime wages under the NYLL.

76. During the NYLL Class Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class overtime wages for all hours worked over 40 in a week for Defendants.

77. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class overtime wages for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek, Defendants violated the NYLL.

78. The foregoing conduct of Defendants constitutes willful violations of the NYLL.

79. Defendants' violations of the NYLL have significantly damaged Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class and entitle them to recover the total amount of their unpaid overtime wages, an additional equal amount in liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Illegal Retention of Gratuities Under the NYLL)

80. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the NYLL Class, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their claim for illegal retention of gratuities as if they were set forth again herein.

81. NYLL § 196-d bars an employer from retaining “any part of a gratuity or of any charge purported to be gratuity[.]”

82. During the NYLL Class Period, Defendants unlawfully retained gratuities from Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class in violation of NYLL § 196-d.

83. Due to Defendants’ NYLL violations, Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants the amount of unlawfully retained gratuities, liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys’ fees and costs.

SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Pay Wages for All Hours Worked/Straight Time Wages)

84. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the NYLL Class, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their claim for failure to pay wages for all hours worked as if they were set forth again herein.

85. NYLL § 191(1)(a) requires employers to pay wages to manual workers like Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class on a weekly basis and not later than seven calendar days after the end of the week in which the wages are earned.

86. During the NYLL Class Period, Defendants unlawfully failed to pay wages to Plaintiffs and the NYLL for all hours worked, *i.e.*, straight-time wages, no later than seven calendar days after the end of the week in which the wages were earned, in violation of NYLL § 191(1)(a).

87. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants the amount of unpaid straight-time wages, liquidated damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Issue Wage Notices)

88. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the NYLL Class, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their claim for failure to issue wage notices as if they were set forth again herein.

89. NYLL §§ 195(1) and (2) require employers to issue wage notices to employees at the time of their hiring or when any changes to the information required to appear on wage notices occurs.

90. During the NYLL Class Period, Defendants unlawfully failed to issue appropriate wage notices to Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class.

91. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members are each entitled to \$50 per day for every day such wage notice was not provided, up to \$5,000 per person, plus interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Failure to Furnish Wage Statements/Pay Stubs)

92. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the NYLL Class, reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs relevant to their claim for failure to furnish wage statements as if they were set forth again herein.

93. NYLL § 195(3) requires employers to furnish employees with wage statements, *i.e.*, pay stubs, that include, *inter alia*, hours worked, and any minimum wage allowances that are applied.

94. During the NYLL Period, Defendants unlawfully failed to issue appropriate wage statements to Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class.

95. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class Members are each entitled to \$250 per violation up to \$5,000 per person, plus interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class, respectfully request that the Court:

- A. Declare that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under applicable federal and state law;
- B. Declare this action to be maintainable as a collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216, and direct Defendants to provide Plaintiffs with a list of all members of the FLSA Collective, including all last known addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of each such person, so Plaintiffs can give such persons notice of this action and an opportunity to make an informed decision about whether to participate in it;
- C. Determine the damages sustained by Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective as a result of Defendants' violations of the FLSA, and award those damages against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective, plus such pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed by law;

D. Award Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective an additional equal amount as liquidated damages because Defendants' violations were willful and/or without a good faith basis;

E. Declare this action to be maintainable as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, and direct Defendants to provide Plaintiffs with a list of all members of the NYLL Class, including all last known addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of each such person, so Plaintiffs can give such persons notice of this action and an opportunity to make an informed decision about whether to participate in it;

F. Designate Plaintiffs as representatives of the NYLL Class, and their counsel of record as class counsel;

G. Determine the damages sustained by Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class as a result of Defendants' violations of the NYLL and/or its regulations, and award those damages against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class, plus such pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed by law;

H. Award Plaintiffs and the NYLL Class an additional amount as liquidated damages pursuant to the NYLL because Defendants' violations were willful and/or without a good faith basis;

I. Award Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and disbursements in this action including, but not limited to, any accountants' or experts' fees;

J. Grant Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective, and the NYLL Class such other and further relief that the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons, hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues of fact and damages.

Date: January 31, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

RYAN KIM LAW, P.C.

/s/Ryan Kim

Ryan J. Kim

222 Bruce Reynolds Blvd. Suite 490

Fort Lee, NJ 07024

T: 718) 573-1111

ryan@ryankimlaw.com

*Counsel for Plaintiffs, the FLSA Collective,
and the NYLL Class*